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ASHLAND, O., Dec. 21, 1887.

1888.

We will soon enter upon the year eighteen hundred and eighty-eight. Now is the time to renew your subscription to the EVANGELIST. It will be published the coming year for the same price. Renew your own subscription, kind reader, and send in your neighbor's also. Our list should be increased one third for the year 1888, and we are dependent upon you to help us in the work.

An Expressed Creed.

Bro. Daniel Miller's article on "Church Government" in No. 50, and the editor's remark on it, open up a new view of thought. There has been of late an unusual demand for an expressed creed, or a definition of our belief and practice. We claim to be the true representatives of the old Brethren church as it existed before the Annual meeting assumed unwarranted power. Then it behooves us to get at the true sentiments of these old pioneers. We now give to the Brethren the testimony of Dr. Benjamin Franklin which is very important on this matter. It should be written in letters of gold, and should ever mold the sentiments of the Brethren church. Whoever may have a desire to formulate a creed should study the grand Christian principle here set forth—grand because of its humility and absence of dictatory and presuming spirit. Dr. Franklin says:

"I was accquainted with one of the founders, Michael Wohlfahrt. He complained to me that they were grievously calumniated by the zealots of other persuasions, and charged with abominable principles and practices, to which they were utter strangers. I told him this had always been the case with new sects, and to put a stop to such abuse, I imagined it might be well to publish the articles of their belief and the rules of their discipline. He said that *it had been proposed* among them, *but not agreed to do so*, for this reason, for 'when we were first drawn together as a society,' said he, 'it pleased God to enlighten our minds so far as to see that some doctrines which were esteemed truths, were errors; and that others, which we had esteemed errors, were real truths. From time to time He has been pleased to afford us further light, and our principles have been *improving*, and our errors diminishing. Now we are not sure that we are arrived at the end of this progression, and at the perfection of spiritual or theological knowledge, and *we fear* that if we should print our *confession of faith*, we should feel ourselves as if BOUND and CONFINED by it, and perhaps be unwilling to receive further improvement; and our successors still more so, as conceiving what their Elders and founders had done to be something sacred—never to be departed from."'

The above is published in our "Annual," and the only reason we give for reproducing it here is to emphasize it, and for the benefit of those who may not purchase the Annual. There is no exclusiveness or despotism there, and as little priestcraft as we can ever expect to find in any religious denomination of earth. How will this sentiment compare with that which has characterized the old church of late, and also the tendency of many good and well-meaning brethren, who consider that the church, to be kept in the proper channel, must be burdened with an expression of our "doctrine."

Now we will call attention to Dr. Franklin's opinion of this sentiment. He adds:

"This modesty in a sect is perhaps a singular instance in the history of mankind. Every other sect supposing itself in possession of *all truth*, and those who differ are so far in the wrong; like a man travelling in foggy weather, those at some distance before him on the road he sees wrapt up in the fog, as well as those behind him; and also the people in the fields on both sides; but near him *all* appears clear; though *in truth* he is as much in the fog as any of them," etc.

This needs no comment. It expresses an opinion that any reasonable man can endorse without hesitation. A church founded on such principles, composed of members holding such principles would stand for ever, for the Savior says, "The gates of hell shall not prevail against it."

EDWARD MASON.

One Body in Christ.

Early in this month, the Evangelical Alliance met in Washington City for the purpose of holding a conference. This organization was effected a few years ago by Dr. Philip Schaff, the foremost biblical scholar in America. The Alliance has grown to be a large organization, and the delegates numbered about fifteen hundred and represent every shade of religious belief from Pelagianism to the most severe Calanistic.

The motto of this Alliance is, "We are one body in Christ," and in its deliberations the Episcopalian with his hobby of Apostolic Succession and the Presbyterian with his ultra predestinationism meet together as brethren in a common work to advance the cause of religion.

The motto is a very excellent one, and one that could be practically adopted with profit by many professors and not a few churches. "One body in Christ" is what Christians are, and in this manner they should conduct themselves. More union can be introduced among churches in this way than in any other, and the truth will be made to prevail the sooner. We admire the spirit that actuates the workers in that Alliance.

"One body in Christ" is a principle that our church should not in any way belittle. There is no occasion for it. Our doctrine is the doctrine of Christ, according to the decision of our conferences, and no one should be afraid when he has the truth on his side. All that we should do is to strengthen our decision of character and sustain our individuality, and the result cannot be otherwise than helpful to our cause. When people associate with each other one party or the other will gravitate toward the other. When a man and wife are married, and their temperaments are harmonious, the ways of one will, in some degree, become the ways of the other and they will think alike and act alike. Thus our association with others, if we take care not to become the passive party, will cause such to gravitate toward our faith and to adopt our belief. This can easily be, for it commends itself because it harmonizes with the gospel.

Again we should not be slow to avail ourselves of every opportunity to have our church represented in every proper and creditable institution in the country. It will give the church influence, and thus, indirectly help the work of planting the truth where it should be. G.

Secret Sins.

There are faults which we confess and never make any real effort to cure. The bad-tempered man laments over his ill-temper, and yet never once has a regular battle with it when tempted. He will even plead his own infirmity to his friends as an excuse for extenuation of his conduct, and pleads to himself the same excuse for spiritual indolence. We ought not to be content to merely lament what we ought to resist.

This is not the only way in which we are tempted to stand still when we ought to be pressing forward. Sometimes our sins sit so easy on us that we do not even lament them—we do not even sorrow at all.

Thus, for instance, how easy is it to be selfish, and yet hardly to be aware of our own selfishness. In the parable of the rich man and Lazarus, what was the sin for which Dives was punished? Was it not a selfish life? All, whether rich or poor, are tempted to spend on themselves much, and on God's service little.

Take another sin, which we cherish almost without knowing it—pride. A man who rarely shows pride in any outward manner, may have a heart puffed up with self-conceit and self-appreciation, and feel above his fellow creatures. A humble garb may cover a proud heart.

A secret sin may go on for years, and the man may win the respect of his fellows, and may be in earnest in the discharge of his duties; and then, when the sin comes out, men will say, "What a hypocrite." No, the man was not a hypocrite. But he got so accustomed to his sin that he never felt its sinfulness till detection awoke him suddenly.

M.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

The Herald of Truth, a Mennonite paper published at Elkhart, Ind., is greatly exercised over the fact that two of its ministers were called *Right Reverend* by news papers in Pennsylvania, and argues that their ministers should not consent to have the abbreviation, "Rev." used as a title with their names. In this country, Rev. is certainly the most plain and common ministerial title that can be used, and plain churches, we think would prefer its use.

The infidel paper, the "Open Court," published in Chicago, is in distress. The advocates of that religion have so little interest in their cause that the paper is dying through want of support. Infidelity certainly offers little inducement to the soul, and why should any one seek to prepetuate or strengthen such enmity to God and the external happiness of man.

The Pearl of Days is the name of a monthly published by Wilbur B. Ketcham, 71 Bible House, New York. It is devoted to a defense of the Sabbath. The subscription price is one dollar. It is a journal that is greatly needed in these times of desecration of the Sabbath day. There is a great need of a revolution on this subject in the cities. In many places it is hardly possible to distinguish the day from others of the week.

The Supreme Court never reverses its decision. This is the reason why temperance people rejoice over the late decision on the question of Prohibition, and why the liquor men are in dispair.

An enterprising company has opened an exhibition in Chicago, giving a view of Jerusalem on the day of the crucifixion. It is said the panorama embodies the results of centuries of investigation, and the truth of the facts upon which Christianity and modern civilization are based. The picture it enrolls is so purely realistic, that it will prove not only acceptable but highly valuable to all and every person who has ever heard the name of Jesus, no matter to what religious sect or denomination he may belong. It is located on the corner of Wabash Avenue and Hubbard Court.

Sister M. M. Sterling is taking hold of the work of establishing a Society of Christian Endeavor in a very commendable manner, and her enterprise insures its success. We understand that a Constitution is now being prepared, and that soon the organization of local societes will be commenced.

Arensdorf, the man who citizens of Sioux City, Iowa, believed murdered Haddock, goes free. It is an insult to justice. It is doubtful if the murderer of this man will ever be punished. But what else can be expected of a city government run by foreign saloon anarchists?

Bro. T. Gibson, of San Francisco, Cal., is a new writer for the EVANGELIST. His first article will appear in a week or two. The title is "The Righteousness of God," a very good one indeed.

Shelby Arthur writes that he will be on hand with a good club of subscribers by the first of the month. We trust other agents will do likewise.

Meyersdale, Pa., was the scene of an ugly fire on the 9th. The office of the *Commercial*, a publication familiar to many of our readers, was on fire, but by heroic labor it was saved from destruction. We notice several names that are familiar to us, in the report of the fire.

Several brethren who have renewed their subscription or remitted for the past year, have sent in a dollar for the College. This is the right way to do. Members who reside in isolated places desire to lend a helping hand in this work.

The church certificates that we now have for sale have the words, "To any member or church of the Brethren on it. This certificate can consistantly be given to any member, if he is worthy of one, whether he expects to join a Brethren church or some other. The old forms usually used, were addressed to other churches as much as to our own.

"Pocket Quarterly for Teachers of Children in the Sabbath School, Pulpit and Home" is the title of a neat Pamphlet, published by Pocket Quarterly, 74 East 90th street, New York. It is published at ten cents a quarter, and is a handy and useful work for lady S. S. teachers. "Reading the Bible with a Relish," is published by the same company. It is designed for daily home worship, schools, prayer-meetings, etc. Price 15 cents.

Good results are following the decision of the Supreme Court in Prohibition States. John Walruff, of Lawrence, Kansas, has had his brewery closed, and the brewers of Sioux City, Iowa, have shut up to open no more.

A Methodist preacher in Ripley, N. Y., has been warned to quit talking about hell and high license. It sounds too harshly for the delicate ears.

The Christian Cynosure, the able anti-secret society organ of this country, enters upon its twentieth year bright and healthy. It proposes during the coming year to give special attention to the minor secret societies. Another enterprise that it now has on hand is to send a copy to 1000 colored ministers.

Senator Palmer created a sensation recently, at a gathering of Republican party managers at Detroit, Mich., by saying that he thought it was time for that party in Michigan, to take up Prohibition. The following remarks which he made upon the occasion are certainly very true: "This question, which is already a cloud even larger than a man's hand, is soon to overshadow the whole sky; the gage had been thrown down to us in the last election and inquisition applied to all candidates by the saloon element demanding from them an expression of views on the whiskey question that amounted to pledges. The Republican candidates who made these pledges were discriminated against by the temperance people, and those who did not were slaughtered by the liquor influence. I said I believed in taking up the gauntlet thus thrown down, and, as a party, coming out on one side or the other of this question."

"THE BOW IN THE CLOUDS," is the title of an elegant new book just published by E. B. Treat, office of the Pulpit Treasury, 771, Broadway, New York City. The work occupies a new and rather a strange field in religious literature, and has a fascinating character which catches the reader's interest and curiosity. The author has certainly supplied a want that every one feels frequently during life, in furnishing "words of comfort for those in bereavement, sickness, sorrow and the various trials of life. It is edited by J. Sanderson, D. D. We notice among the subjects. Consolation from the Bible, Introductory, Infant Salvation, Consolation for Parents Bereft of children, Consolation for the Bereaved, Consolation for Varied Afflictions, Consolation for the Aged and Infirm.

The book is made up of short articles by numerous authors and form a most valuable collection for devotional reading, soul-inspiring study. Every minister should have this work.

What is it?

The sister's work of Christian Endeavor is not definitely understood by our people, and in order to relieve myself and others of the task of answering a variety of questions in relation to their work, I should like to see a more definite statement in print, of just what their work is and how they are expected to accomplish it, for I am unable for my part, from what I have been able to learn yet, to give satisfactory answers to those who ask me. I have my views as to what their mission should be, but whether this is correct I cannot tell. There is one thing, if it legitimately comes within the scope of their work, I should like to call their attention to, and if they can devise means that will remedy this evil I shall regard their mission a grand success. I refer to an evil prevailing in all our congregations wherever I have visited, and I have often wished a remedy could be made or provided that would reach it. Now if the sisters in their work of Christian Endeavor can reach the case, they will surely immortalize themselves. And just as soon as they are organized and declare themselves ready for work, and I see that what I refer to comes under their care I will be ready to point out to them the evil I think needs attention among the first things that they undertake to do. Now don't be too inquisitive, but get ready for work and give us either in pamphlet or tract or some way to understand what kind of Christian work comes to their hands and if the kind of work that I refer to is in order I shall be ready to point it out to them, and in the meantime I will let all hands guess what it is.

P. J. BROWN.
Nat. Military Home, Ohio.

Endeavors.

Bessie Perry, Secretary of Sister's Society for Christian En-